

Navy attorneys does not constitute an “article.” The attorneys could each accept a gratuitous payment of \$50 if the song were selected by their alma mater for publication in its compendium of college songs.

*Example 3.* An engineer employed by the National Aeronautics and Space Administration has entered into a contract with an association of electrical component manufacturers to proofread and edit articles submitted by members of the association for publication in its monthly newsletter. The employee may accept the contract fee since the compensation is not for the writing of articles.

*Example 4.* An accountant employed by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation may accept compensation for writing a chapter of a textbook on corporate accounting. A chapter of a book is not an “article.”

(e) *Receive* means that there is actual or constructive receipt of the honorarium by the employee so that the employee has a right to exercise dominion and control over the honorarium and direct its subsequent use. For purposes of this subpart, an honorarium is received while an employee if it is for an appearance or speech made or any article submitted for publication by that individual while he was an employee. Except when it is paid to a charitable organization in accordance with § 2636.204 of this subpart, an honorarium is received by an employee:

(1) If it is paid to another person on the basis of designation, recommendation or other specification by the employee; or

(2) If, with the employee’s knowledge and acquiescence, it is paid to his parent, sibling, spouse, child or dependent relative.

*Example 1.* At the suggestion of the Army officer who authored an article selected for publication in a popular magazine, the publisher paid the amount of its usual honorarium to the officer’s husband. The officer has “received” an honorarium.

*Example 2.* An employee of the Department of Housing and Urban Development has been offered a \$500 honorarium for a speech to be given during the week before his scheduled date of retirement from Federal service. Since it is for a speech to be made while he is an employee, he will have “received” the offered honorarium while an employee even though actual payment may not occur until after his retirement.

(f) *Charitable organization* means an organization which is qualified with respect to deductible charitable contributions under 26 U.S.C. 170(c) be-

cause it is organized or operated exclusively for religious, charitable, scientific, literary, educational or another specified purpose. It includes, but is not limited to, an organization exempt from Federal taxation under the authority of 26 U.S.C. 501(c)(3).

(g) *Travel expenses* means the actual and necessary cost of transportation, lodging and meals incurred while away from the employee’s residence or principal place of employment in connection with an appearance, speech or article. Where the lodgings and meals portion of travel expenses are paid or reimbursed by another in the form of a per diem or subsistence expense allowance, that allowance shall be treated as actual and necessary travel expenses if the allowance is no more than that customarily paid by the payor to its own officers or employees, provided the employee in fact incurs costs for commercial meals and lodgings on each day for which the allowance is received.

[56 FR 1723, Jan. 17, 1991, as amended at 57 FR 602, Jan. 8, 1992]

#### **§ 2636.204 Payment to charitable organizations in lieu of honoraria.**

(a) *Effect of payment to a charitable organization.* An honorarium which, but for this subpart, could be paid to an employee but is paid instead on behalf of the employee to a charitable organization is deemed not to be received by the employee. An employee may suggest that an honorarium that he is prohibited from receiving solely by application of this subpart be paid in his name to a charitable organization. An honorarium received and later donated to a charitable organization by the employee does not qualify as a payment to a charitable organization in lieu of an honorarium made in accordance with this section.

NOTE: An employee on whose behalf a payment in lieu of an honorarium has been made to a charitable organization may not take a tax deduction on account of the payment under any provision of the Internal Revenue Code or under any tax law of a State or political subdivision thereof.

(b) *Nonqualifying payments to charitable organizations.* No payment may be made to a charitable organization pursuant to this section:

(1) If the employee would be prohibited from receiving and retaining the honorarium by any conflict of interest statute or regulation or applicable standards of conduct other than this subpart. Honoraria that the employee is prohibited from receiving and retaining would include, for example, any honorarium that is for:

(i) An appearance or speech made or article written by the employee in an official capacity or as part of his official duties; or

(ii) A speech or article, the subject matter of which focuses specifically on agency responsibilities, policies or programs.

(2) In an amount in excess of \$2,000 per appearance, speech, or article; or

(3) If the employee, the employee's parent, sibling, spouse, child, or dependent relative derives any direct financial benefit from the charitable organization that is separate from and beyond any general benefit conferred by the organization's activities.

*Example 1.* An Assistant U.S. Attorney who has successfully prosecuted an espionage case may not suggest that an honorarium offered for his speech about the prosecution be given to his law school. Because the topic of the speech relates to his official duties, he is prohibited from accepting any compensation by applicable standards of conduct. He could, however, suggest that an honorarium offered for his speech on training sheepdogs, be paid to his school.

*Example 2.* A personnel specialist employed by the Department of Labor whose spouse is employed by the Red Cross may not suggest that an honorarium for his speech about his vacation spent bicycling through China be donated in his name to the Red Cross.

*Example 3.* A claims examiner employed by the Department of Veterans Affairs whose mother suffers from Parkinson's Disease may suggest that an honorarium for her article on historic preservation be donated to a charitable organization that funds research seeking a cure for Parkinson's Disease. She may not suggest, however, that it be donated to a charitable organization that provides her mother with in-home nursing services.

**§ 2636.205 Reporting payments to charitable organizations in lieu of honoraria.**

(a) *Who must file.* A current or former employee, other than a new entrant, who is required to file a financial disclosure report, either on a confidential or public basis, shall at the same time

file a confidential report of payments to charitable organizations in lieu of honoraria if:

(1) Payments in lieu of honoraria aggregating more than \$200 were made on his behalf by any one source to one or more charitable organizations during the reporting period covered by the financial disclosure statement; or

(2) In the case of an individual filing a termination report, there is an understanding between the reporting individual and any other person that payments in lieu of honoraria will be made on his behalf for an appearance or speech made or article submitted for publication while the individual was a Government employee which, together with any payments in lieu of honoraria made by that source during the reporting period, will aggregate more than \$200.

This reporting requirement is in addition to any other requirement to disclose on a public or confidential financial disclosure report the source, date and amount of an honorarium paid to a charitable organization on the employee's behalf. It does not apply to any payment in lieu of an honorarium made to a charitable organization on behalf of the current or former employee's spouse or dependent child.

(b) *Where and when to file.* The report required by this section shall be filed with the agency ethics official by the date the current or former employee is required to file a confidential or public financial disclosure report. Any grant of an extension to file a financial disclosure report shall automatically extend the date for filing the report of payments to charitable organizations in lieu of honoraria and the agency ethics official may, for good cause shown by the employee, grant a separate extension of the date for filing the report required by this section. The total of all extensions for filing the report required by this section shall not exceed 90 days.

(c) *Reporting period.* The report of payments to charitable organizations in lieu of honoraria shall cover the same period that applies to the confidential or public financial disclosure report the individual is required to file. For employees filing annual financial disclosure reports, the reporting period